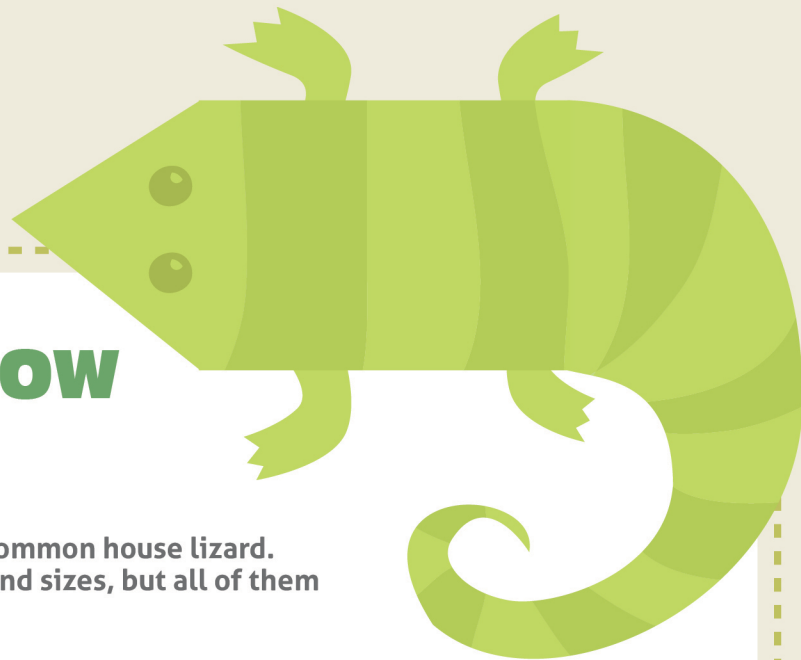


# GECKO GECKO



## DID YOU KNOW

**You share your home with a wild predator.**

Relax! We're talking about the common house lizard. They come in different colours and sizes, but all of them are part of the gecko family.

## FOR YOUR FIELD DIARY



### Find them

Gecko-friendly hiding places include picture frames, behind clocks, walls, roofs, or lampposts outdoors. Don't try and catch them!

### Watch them eat

When geckos eat, they look a bit like they're licking an ice cream cone, except a hundred times faster. What do you see them eat?

### Peek at their poop

Gecko droppings are the size of a grain of basmati rice. They are black with a white tip at the end.

### Look at the time

When is it easier to spot a gecko – in the day or at night? Do they change colour over the day?

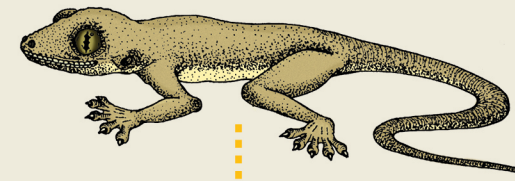
### Listen to them

What sounds do they make? Try and imitate their calls.

### Different tongues

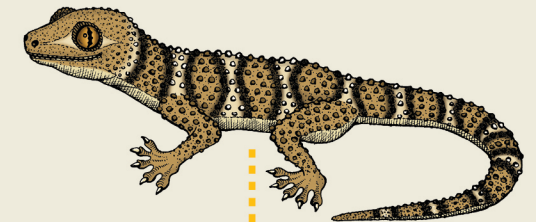
Ask your friends in school and your apartment what they call a gecko in their mothertongue.

## Did you see any of these?



**Northern  
house gecko**

Common in houses of  
northern India



**Termite-hill  
gecko**

Common in open and dry  
areas of peninsular and  
western India

## SPEAK TO AN EXPERT

### Meet Farida.

She has been a herpetologist (someone who studies reptiles and amphibians) for the last 18 years.

### ? Farida, are geckos poisonous?

Not at all. The house lizard is a good friend who keeps your home clean and neat by eating all the cockroaches and mosquitoes. In fact, in central America these lizards are called *Limpia Casas* which means 'house cleaners'.

### ? Can we touch them?

You can safely touch one, but it might run away leaving behind its tail. As a defense mechanism, the gecko sheds its tail when it is attacked or feels threatened by something. In this case, it is YOU.

*If you have questions about geckos, write to Farida at [edu@ncf-india.org](mailto:edu@ncf-india.org)*



*Image courtesy: Farida*

## WRITE TO US!

Have you spotted a gecko sharing your home?

Send us your observations and drawings at [edu@ncf-india.org](mailto:edu@ncf-india.org)!